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A Wish.

If I could find the Little Year,
The Happy Year, the glad New Year;
If I could find him setting forth
To seek the ancient track—
I'd bring him here, the Little Year,
Like a peddler with his pack.
And all of golden brightness,
And nothing dull or black,
And all that heart could fancy,
And all that life could lack,
Should be your share of the peddler's
ware,
When he undid his pack.
The best from out his treasure
A smile of yours would coax.
And then we'd speed him on his way,
At midnight's falling strokes,
And bid him hurry round the world,
And serve the other folks!

—MARGARET VALEY—

Altamont, Cal.

Dec. 20.—In my last letter I told you of our intentions of building a Brethren church here, and now I have the pleasure of informing you that our church is built, and was dedicated on Sunday, Dec. 12th. The dedicatory sermon was preached by our esteemed brother, J. W. Beer. His sermon on this occasion, as usual, was well received. His text was 1st Timothy, 3rd chapter, 14, and 15th verses. Theme:—Behavior in the house of God. We fully expected to have had Bro. Wolf, also on this occasion, but were disappointed. Bro. Eby, from Bantas, left his home at daylight, with a wagon load of worshipers, and arrived a little after our services had started, 11 o'clock. Altogether we had a good meeting.

In the evening at 6 o'clock, the little band wished in honor of their Bethel, and of the departure on the following day of Bro. Beer, to have their love feast, a fitting tribute to our Lord and Master which was presided over by Bro. Beer, assisted by Bro. Doty. Would to God such feasts were more frequent, as I think the church would not fall into such lethargy.

And now, Bro. editor, with your permission, I will give you some idea of how we managed to raise our first Brethren church in California, as I think many dear friends in the East will fancy. Altamont must be quite a place. It has a wayide station on the C. P. R. R., without an agent. It has a saloon and a grocery store. It has been a wonder to many how we ever got a church built here. Some day the place might be incorporated, but I hope our church will be first in that direction also. Now our church is 22x32, 14 ft. ceiling, with a porch 7x10, a good fence all around. Some day we intend to have it well laid out with flowers. The Secretary's report as read, showed that there had been expended \$441.60 for material alone, and there had been collected \$408.50, leaving a deficiency of \$30.10, and before our evening service this was cleared off, although we still need \$125.00 yet to complete our work.

Now to stimulate others to go and build a house to worship our God in, I will tell you how we did. We had three good solicitors, one in particular, sister Perret. Often when she was re-

ceiving the cold shoulder she would tell them she would just stay there until she got something decent. So I suppose rather than board her and her team, they would give her something and send her on her way rejoicing. The Sunday school scholars raised \$40.00 for a Bible, pulpit chair, stove and lamps. But Rev. M. Thomson, of Oakland, presented us with a Pulpit Bible and 6 common Bibles for the Sunday school. God bless the Sunday school. Again, all work of whatever nature has been done free. Presbyterians, Methodists, and a good many who belong to no denomination assisted willingly. As sister Perret is so good at soliciting, let me here remark, if Bro. Holsinger had her in the East, that debt on the College would have been cleared off by this I think. But her husband is just as good in his way, as all the hauling was done by him, and in fact, he nearly boarded all the help. So that well might we all say, God bless their home.

Before I close, the good people of Lanark have taken Bro. Beer from our midst. But we don't intend to let them keep him. We have a resident minister in our midst, and I do think we ought to have an Elder appointed to assist and strengthen him in his labor of love. May the good Lord assist and strengthen him that he may be enabled to break the bread of life to us of tiner in our new House of God, is our hope and prayer.

WM. SHANKS.

At Ashland.

The meeting having closed at Ashland and thinking everything alive after a successful meeting I determined to visit Ashland. And to my surprise I found things alive. I had not been to Ashland since I left in the spring of '85, and hence was anxious to get back again. Everything looked familiar. The town has improved slightly since I left. A new jail and a new church have been erected since I quit school. Other buildings have also been erected. Ashland is a fine little city, and no time is it so beautiful as in the spring when the May showers and glad sunshine draw out the leaves and tiny blades of grass to clothe the trees and lawns in their summer suits. The Press man now sits cosily in a new building with a glass front through which he can catch the news that passes by. The Salvation Army has also marched upon Ashland; but has not done much violence yet. What they will do is uncertain; but they have the perseverance requisite for success. They fight long and hard.

Prof. Bailey stands behind the counter in the Centennial store, with both hands tied up, waiting on customers. A proprietor would not pay him much just now to act as clerk; but since he is proprietor he can do as he pleases, and yet not exactly. He has to sore hands. I am sorry for this and hope he may speedily recover.

I next went up stairs over the Centennial store and visited the EVANGELIST office. Here I found things about as usual with a few changes. Everybody was busy and I soon found my way to the College. How the reminiscences of other days danced upon my feeble recollections. Everything seemed natural and familiar; but it was this familiarity that unveiled the past and disclosed the events that long ago formed impressions upon my mind that will never be erased. I passed by the house on Claremont Avenue of "Seven Gables"; but the "solid six," where are they? Gone out into the world as most of us have done. Mrs. Brubaker is as well and happy as usual, and it did me good to visit my old home there. I always feel at home there. But I lifted up my eyes and there stood the College with its tall cupola towering high in the air. The passing clouds gave it a falling appearance; but it stands as solid as before; yes, more so. The indebtedness is secured and the College is ours. Thank God for such a glorious triumph after a most desperate struggle. The clouds of discouragement are passing by. The darkness disappears and there! what do I see! A group of as neat and intelligent looking students as ever graced that institution. I was at my wit's end. It was more than I expected. But this is only the introduction to an era of prosperity that will outshine the former history of the institution. Thus far its history has been Kaleidoscopic, too frequent changes which could perhaps not be avoided because of outward circumstances, operating with Herculean forces, known only to those who were directly connected with it, gave it an unstable appearance. But under the present management it is becoming more firm. To be candid, we have nothing yet to boast of, but a great deal to be thankful for. I see an undercurrent of improvement, that will under judicious and discreet management widen out until prosperity shall be stamped upon the institution, and failure shall be unknown. The debt being secured financially, the College will not fail. Besides, we now have a class of students who are getting just what they came for. They will go out and recommend the institution and bring others with them. This is very essential for the prosperity of an institution, and will in time bring in a multitude of students who will be a credit to the school. The best solicitor for students is the student. The people of Ashland and vicinity are becoming more fully acquainted with the real situation of the school, and therefore more sympathetic and helpful. Much that was censured is now looked upon as the only alternative, and by the time we all understand one another all things will work together for good.

Of course the criterion of the institution is not so high intellectually as the people perhaps desire; neither is it as high as

we desire it. But we must not undertake impossibilities. Things that are impossible now will become possible by judicious management and a little patience. It is better to have a classic course in several years than to have one now, and in a few years have neither classic, normals, nor scientific. Time and an increase of students will lengthen the course and give to the public just what it wants.

Another feature that impresses me very favorably was the number of young ministers attending College. When we can educate our ministers then is the time when the institution will be doing its greatest and most efficient work. And it will not be long until a Theological department will or should be created where young ministers will be taught the word of God as Christ instructed his apostles. I think Ashland College will yet do a mighty work for the church.

The meetings at the College were a success. I think good material was taken into the church. Such meetings will do the College good as well as the students and the church at Ashland.

Before I left Ashland I stopped in at the EVANGELIST office and had a pleasant time with Bro. Garber, the editor. He has things in good shape and is crowded with work.

A. A. COBER.

Glenford, Ohio.

Things in General, Some Things in Particular.

Xmas Dinner—We took our Xmas dinner with Bro. David Schiendle, for many years a deacon in the church. Bro. S's family were with him, with two exceptions. May the family form an unbroken circle in heaven.

The Shut in Society—Sister Schiendle is a member of what might be called the shut in society, being afflicted with disease; she is kept a prisoner in the house the greater part of the time, and entirely so in the winter, but she knows in whom she believes and commits herself to Him with faith in the fact that all things work together for good to those who love God.

A Treat for the children—The Funkstown school gave the girls and boys a treat; we had a full school. It is right to reward the children. The cost is small; the result good. We all like to be remembered, and the little ones in particular. A box of candy and an orange goes a long way with them, even if they do not last long.

Our Church Dedicated—The building at St. James has been set apart for worship. Bro. Shaver was with us and is now conducting a meeting. Bro. Bowman is also with us helping to sing. It is well you know, for Moody and Sankey to go together. These brethren have hearts as large as themselves, and plenty of religion in their elbows.

Elbow Religion—Church members as a general thing do not have enough elbow religion. For instance a stranger comes in

the church and no one speaks to him because they have not been introduced. There is enough starch in some churches to run two or three factories. If sociable I think we are at least trying to love our neighbor as one's self.

A Small People with a few Tracts.—A good Presbyterian brother, commencing meeting in a school house, after I closed a meeting, found some of my tracts on the desk. They seemed to trouble him very much, and he warned his people not to read the few tracts scattered by a small sect. Now a small sect seem to trouble him very much. Why is it some people are so afraid of a small sect and a few printed leaves. Alas! for poor human nature, Brethren, stand firm; keep the fire of truth hot and you will see the lard of tradition melt away and be consumed.

Some Little Delay.—Owing to an increase in the number of pages, the church member's Hand Book has been delayed, but by the time this is read all orders up to date will have been filled, no preventing providence. Help circulate this book, and I am certain church members will be better Christians. Next week we will give you an outline of contents, &c.

You have resolved to turn over a new leaf; this is right, if wrong, we ought to get right, but let us keep the leaves turned. So often we let them fly back. A happy New Year to all.

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN.

Palmer, Ill

I cannot do without the paper as long as I can raise the subscription money, as I do not hear any preaching in our isolated condition; that is, any of the Brethren doctrine. We have some of the sprinkling preachers here, who preach up sprinkling, but trine immersion is not preached here, except what I preach myself, and that is not very much. I let the neighbors read the paper, but it does not suit them very well in everything. They do not like the idea of being baptized three times, as they call it. I think if the Brethren doctrine was preached here in its purity, the people would learn something new.

We have a good country here in Christian Co., Ill. Land is cheap. I think some of the Brethren would do well to come and settle here.

H. ARNOLD.

The evangelical ministers of Cincinnati have passed resolutions that ballet exhibitions tended toward irreligion and immorality, and should not be countenanced by Christian people.

The American colony in Paris have just completed a church worthy of the nation they represent, and a new Anglican Church is about to rise in the Rue des Bassins as successor of the Marbeuf Chapel. Towards the erection of this edifice Sir Richard Wallace has given \$50,000.